

Wycombe two up— then Barking hit back for a point

Sports Mail Special Report

BARKING 2 : WYCOMBE WAND. 2

WYCOMBE played the right sort of game under difficult conditions in the first half of their Isthmian League match at Barking, but the home side hit back after the interval to save a point—and they deserved it.

Barking: Martin; Smith, Henham; Moffatt, Norman, Turner; Gould, Codd, Hearne, Gray, Lakey.

Wycombe: Brown; Lewis, Beck; Gale, Fisher, Worley; James, Blair, Hay, Cooper, Murphy.
Referee: R. C. Black (Wimbledon)

The opportunist shooting of Peter James spelt the difference between the two teams.

Barking did most of the first half attacking, but James scored a magnificent 20-minute goal and Wycombe later took a slightly fortunate 2-0 interval lead.

With Horseman, Hyde and Thomas all suffering from colds, Wycombe made several changes.

Seventeen-year-old John Cooper made his debut at left half and Charley Gale moved up to inside left.

Bottom of the league Barking used the through ball well to press fiercely in the opening stages, Fisher and Beck were cool under pressure on a treacherous pitch.

After two early escapes, Barking had an even more lucky escape when Hay flicked the ball to James, who sent a great shot crashing against the bar.

A PICTURE GOAL

Ten minutes later JAMES scored a picture goal after Gale, Blair and Hay had split the Barking defence.

After 25 minutes, Wycombe increased the lead when a free kick from Worley was headed into Barking's net by NORMAN.

Lakey fired over the bar as Barking retaliated, but the Wanderers' defence never looked flustered.

Blair, Hay and James were outstanding in the reshaped Wycombe attack, while wing half Dave Worley was making a fine return to the senior side.

In the last few moments of the half a daring sliding save by Brown saved a certain Barking goal.

Half-time: Barking Town 0, Wycombe Wanderers 2.

The switching on of the floodlights seemed to inspire Barking, who counter-acted Wycombe's more methodical football with plenty of enthusiasm.

HEARNE, who was really extending Fisher, raced through to score within seconds of the restart.

SUSTAINED ATTACK

This was a prelude to a period of sustained Barking attack, during which Brown made several fine saves.

But TURNER beat him with a snap drive after 75 minutes to equalise.

Cooper, switched to inside left late in the game, was having a rough baptism in senior soccer, but he tackled and challenged as keenly as anybody.

RESULT:

BARKING 2
WYCOMBE WAND. 2

WYCOMBE LET GO THEIR GRIP

Barking 2 Wycombe 2

A GREAT second-half revival earned bottom-of-the-table Barking a share of the points in this Isthmian League game.

After Wycombe had run up a 2-0 lead at the interval Barking got right on top and they were unlucky not to mark up their third win of the season.

Wycombe were dominant in the early stages. Clever approach work by Gale and Hay put James through to give them a 19th minute lead. Barking centre-half Norman headed into his own net four minutes later.

With the second half less than a minute old Barking leader Hearne saw his shot deflected into the Wycombe net by Worley.

It was all Barking now, and justice was done when Brown fumbled a Lakey drive to let Codd score the equaliser.

Barking fought hard for the winner, with Fisher and Worley heading a strong defensive action by Wycombe.